

TREASURE

OUR

pennsylvania

COASTS

and

ESTUARIES

miles of coastline
140

coastal population in 2000
2,946,892

fy03 czma core (section 306)
funding
\$2,000,000

fy03 czma enhancements
(section 309) funding
\$174,000

fy03 coastal nonpoint
implementation
\$260,000

PENNSYLVANIA'S COASTAL ZONES RANGE FROM LAKE ERIE'S EXTENSIVE BLUFFS; TO PRESQUE ISLE BAY'S PORT, MARINAS AND SANDY BEACHES; TO PENN'S LANDING; TO THE DELAWARE ESTUARY'S PORTS, PARKS, TIDAL FLATS, MARINAS, WETLANDS, AND REFINERIES. THIS DIVERSE REGION IS OF GREAT CULTURAL, ECONOMIC, AND ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE TO THE STATE. THE DELAWARE ESTUARY COASTAL ZONE IS HOME TO MIGRATORY SHAD, STRIPERS AND EELS—SHAD IN PARTICULAR ARE OF CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL IMPORTANCE TO THE PEOPLE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

THE PORTS OF THE PHILADELPHIA REGION RANK SEVENTH IN THE NATION IN SHIP ARRIVALS AND ARE THE EAST COAST'S NUMBER ONE TANKER PORT AND LARGEST PETROCHEMICAL COMPLEX. BOTH LAKE ERIE AND THE DELAWARE ESTUARY HOST MIGRATORY FLYWAYS.

THE COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT (CZMA) PROVIDES THE FRAMEWORK NECESSARY TO SUSTAIN THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC VALUES OF THESE COASTAL AREAS. THIS LAW, WHICH IS ADMINISTERED BY THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA), RECOGNIZES A NATIONAL INTEREST IN OUR COASTAL AND OCEAN AREAS. IT ALLOWS STATES AND TERRITORIES, NOT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, TO DETERMINE HOW BEST TO BALANCE CONSERVATION OF THE COASTAL ENVIRONMENT WITH HUMAN USES THAT DEPEND ON COASTAL RESOURCES.

THE CZMA IN PENNSYLVANIA

The CZMA establishes programs to balance the use and protection of America's coasts. The Coastal Management Program gives states a flexible framework to address a broad range of community development, economic, and natural resource issues at the state and local level.

Pennsylvania Coastal Zone Management Program

Approved: 1980

Lead Agency: Department of Environmental Protection

The Pennsylvania Coastal Zone Management Program works to protect areas that have development opportunity, or significant natural, recreational, historic, or cultural value. The program operates through a network of state authorities that are coordinated with state agencies, commissions, and local governments.



The program also offers technical assistance and grants to state, county, and local governments, as well as nonprofit organizations and educational institutions.

Accomplishments of the Pennsylvania Coastal Zone Management Program include:

- *providing financial assistance for coastal improvement projects in the Lake Erie and Delaware Estuary coastal zones;*
- *supporting public outreach, environmental education, curriculum development, scientific research, and public participation in coastal activities;*
- *acting as an incubator for projects and programs that apply throughout coastal watersheds and beyond;*
- *leading agency support for development of the Pennsylvania Sea Grant Program;*
- *monitoring coastal wetland activities and investigating changes in coastal wetland acreage;*
- *assisting local administration and enforcement of the Bluff Recession and Setback Act, which protects public health and safety by requiring local zoning permits for development within bluff recession hazard areas along unstable Lake Erie bluffs;*
- *evaluating federal, state, and local activities in coastal areas to ensure consistency with coastal program policies;*
- *providing technical assistance to Lake Erie property owners affected by shoreline erosion and bluff recession;*
- *measuring rates of shoreline erosion and bluff recession, and working with other agencies in monitoring coastal activities; and*
- *working with other states, provinces, and federal agencies on coastal issues of regional, national, and international importance.*

PARTNERSHIPS IN ACTION

For over 20 years, Pennsylvania's Coastal Zone Management Program has worked with property owners and municipalities to reduce damage from coastal erosion along Lake Erie. A successful technical advisory service has provided hundreds of property owners with information helping them recognize and reduce the risks of shoreline erosion and bluff recession caused by fluctuating lake levels. This free service has saved millions of dollars by helping reduce damage and maintain property values.

During this time, coastal zone management program seed money has stimulated matching and additional local investments in meeting coastal program goals. Some results are intangible, such as generations of students with greater awareness of the value of the coastal zones. More results are tangible: public access facilities such as boat launches, marinas and walkways; preserved open space and coastal wetlands; active ports; a vibrant Presque Isle Bay and Penn's Landing; urban redevelopment along both shorelines focusing on coastal resources; and heavily visited state parks and historic sites, with their coastal education missions defined through management plans and new facilities. The Pennsylvania Coastal Zone Management Program has worked with local steering committees, a state advisory committee and regional and county partners through a targeted matching grant program to support local priorities for coastal preservation, restoration, water quality improvement, economic development, and public access.